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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

MAERTENS, et al.

Atty. Ref.: 2551-69

Serial No. 09/995,860

Group: 1648

Filed: November 29, 2001

Examiner: LI, BAO Q

For: PURIFIED HEPATITIS C VIRUS ENVELOPE PROTEINS FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND  
THERAPEUTIC USE

\* \* \* \* \*

**November 2, 2004**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:


**REQUEST**

A decision on the Petition filed July 14, 2004 is requested. While the Examiner has indicated in the Office Action of October 15, 2004 that claims 17 and 20-26 have been rejoined and examined with the previously-considered subject matter, as requested in the Petition, the subject matter of claims 41 and 42 continues to be withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner has not responded to the applicants Petition in this regard and the applicants have not received a decision from the Patent Office on the Petition with regard to the status of claims 41 and 42. See, pages 5-6, for example, of the Petition. A decision is requested without further delay.

Respectfully submitted,

**MAERTENS, et al.**  
Serial No. 09/995,860

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